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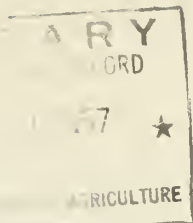
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# Foreign

# CROPS AND MARKETS



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## CONTENTS

PAGE

### COTTON

Japan Arranges Loans for Purchases of U. S. Cotton .....	22
U. S. Cotton Exports Down in August .....	22
U. S. Exports of American-Egyptian Cotton Decline .....	24
Egyptian Cotton Payments May Be Cleared in Greek Accounts.....	25
Egypt's 1957-58 Cotton Crop Estimated Higher Than Last Year's.....	25
India To Increase Production to Desi and Comilla Cottons .....	26
U. K. Imports More Cotton in 1956-57.....	26

### DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Canada's Dairy Product Exports Decline .....	11
Dutch Firm Manufacturing Powdered Cheese .....	12
Chile Issues Two New Dairy Import Requirements .....	12
Irish Butter Exports Increase Sharply .....	12
World Butter and Cheese Prices .....	13

### FATS, OILSEEDS, AND OILS

Venezuela Increases Estimate of Sesame Seed Production .....	20
West German Oilcake and Meal Production (Correction) .....	24

### FOREIGN TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

Drought Hits Agriculture in Nicaragua and Costa Rica .....	19
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### FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

West Germany Remains Turkey's Best Filbert Customer .....	5
West Germany Reduces Fruit Tariff Rates .....	6
Sweden Lifts Import Embargo on Apples and Pears .....	6
Argentine Dried Peach Pack Declines Sharply .....	8
Moroccan Almond Crop Considered Average .....	8
Greek Currant Crop Up, Raisin Crop Down .....	10
Cyprus Markets Raisins in U.S.S.R. ....	10
Yugoslav Prune Estimate Raised .....	11

(Continued on following page)

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FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE  
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## CONTENTS

(Continued from Cover Page)

	Page
GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, SEEDS, AND FEEDS	
U. S. Rice Exports Below Year Ago.....	8
Belgium Increases Domestic Wheat Incorporation Rate.....	17
Australia's Grain Prospects Deteriorate.....	18
Canada's Second Estimate Confirms Reduced Grain Crop.....	18
LIVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTS	
Irish Cattle Exports Up.....	14
West German Cattle and Hog Slaughter Rise.....	15
Denmark Producing and Exporting More Meat.....	16
Canadian Hog Numbers Increase.....	16
Brazil Increases Beef Exports.....	17
SUGAR AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS	
U. S. Vegetable Fiber Imports: 1909-10 to 1956.....	6
Mexican 1957 Henequen Production Estimated Lower; Exports Higher.....	20
TOBACCO	
Canadian Flue-Cured Tobacco Exports Up Sharply.....	3
Nigerian Leaf Imports Decline in 1956.....	3
Mexican Imports of Unmanufactured Tobacco Larger.....	3
Portuguese Imports of Tobacco Leaf Lower.....	4
Hong Kong's Tobacco Imports Up.....	4
Belgian Congo's Cigarette Output Larger.....	5

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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## CANADIAN FLUE-CURED TOBACCO EXPORTS UP SHARPLY

Canadian exports of flue-cured tobacco were 29.3 million pounds in the first 6 months of 1957, compared with 19.5 million during the first half of 1956. Most of the increase was in larger shipments to the United Kingdom--24.1 million pounds in the first half of 1957, in contrast to 14.8 million in the same months of 1956. Exports to West Germany, also up, totaling 649 thousand pounds, compared with 56 thousand in January-June 1956.

The Canadian Tobacco Grower (Delhi, Ontario) reports that dealers expect to export about 3 million pounds of Burley from the 1957 crop. (Burley exports from Canada have never been large, amounting to about 1 million pounds in both 1955 and 1956--primarily to the United Kingdom.)

Canadian farmers are placing increasing emphasis on improving the type of Burley grown, and the lighter cigarette type has been introduced to supplant the older "Red" Burley varieties. Efforts are also being made to hold down production costs so that Canadian Burley will sell at a competitive price.

## NIGERIAN LEAF IMPORTS DECLINE IN 1956

Nigerian imports of unmanufactured tobacco dropped from 5.5 million pounds in 1955 to 4.9 million in 1956. Imports of U. S. leaf remained steady at slightly less than 3.6 million pounds in both years. Cigarette imports also declined--from 79 million pieces in 1955 to 45 million in 1956--as domestic manufacturing capacity increased.

Import requirements for high-grade leaf to blend with domestic tobacco are expected to hold up well in view of the expanding output of domestic cigarettes, while U. S. "Black Fat" tobacco continues to enjoy consumer preference over dark tobaccos from other areas.

Advancement of domestic tobacco production is indicated by the crop of 120 thousand pounds of "Sumatra" wrapper grown for export during 1957.

## MEXICAN IMPORTS OF UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO LARGER

Mexican imports of tobacco were larger during the first half of 1957 than in the first half of 1956. Imports of flue-cured increased from 567 thousand pounds in January-June 1956 to 840 thousand pounds during the first 6 months of 1957. Imports of filler tobacco, primarily Burley, increased from 904 thousand pounds to 1 million pounds, and cigar wrapper imports increased from 9 thousand pounds to 11 thousand pounds correspondingly.

PORTUGUESE IMPORTS OF  
TOBACCO LEAF LOWER

Portugal's imports of unmanufactured tobacco declined from 5.6 million pounds in the first half of 1956 to 5.3 million in the first half of 1957. Imports of U. S. leaf dropped more sharply, from 3.8 million pounds in January-June 1956 to 3.1 million during the same months of 1957.

Smaller imports of U. S. Tobacco were offset to some extent by much larger imports from Italy and with somewhat larger takings from the Rhodesias, Angola, and certain smaller suppliers.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Portugal, imports by country of origin,  
January-June 1955-57

Country of origin	January-June		
	1955	1956	1957
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
United States.....	3,459	3,807	3,062
Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.....	128	238	306
Greece.....	686	807	761
Italy.....	123	183	465
Angola.....	434	216	306
Mozambique.....	64	106	64
Other.....	110	276	340
Total.....	5,004	5,633	5,304

Source: Boletim Mensal do Instituto Nacional de Estatistica, June 1957

HONG KONG'S TOBACCO  
IMPORTS UP

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco into Hong Kong during the first half of 1957 were 4.7 million pounds, compared with 4.3 in the first half of 1956. Imports from the United States at 2.2 million pounds were slightly below those for the first half of 1956. Major sources of supply, other than the United States, were the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, India, Communist China, Japan, and Thailand.

Reexports of leaf and stems were .7 million pounds during the first half of 1957. Major customers were Macao, North Vietnam, and the Pacific Islands administered by the United States. Slightly more than half a million pounds of cigarettes were exported, of which 184 thousand were manufactured in Hong Kong.



## BELGIAN CONGO'S CIGARETTE OUTPUT LARGER

Cigarette output in the Belgian Congo increased significantly in the first 4 months of 1957 to 1,130 million pieces, compared with 972 million during the same months of 1956. Cigarillo output was slightly above the same period a year earlier, but output of cigars declined.

WEST GERMANY REMAINS TURKEY'S  
BEST FILBERT CUSTOMER

Despite a decrease in takings for the second successive year, West Germany was again the largest buyer of Turkish filberts in 1956-57. Purchases of Turkish filberts during the past marketing year by West Germany amounted to 22,166 short tons, in-shell basis, compared with 28,503 tons during 1955-56 and 39,917 tons in 1954-55.

Imports of Turkish filberts by the United Kingdom, on the other hand, increased substantially during the past season, constituting 16 percent of all Turkish filbert exports. East Germany and the Netherlands also increased Turkish filbert imports during the past 2 seasons. Turkey normally produces 60 percent of the world filbert harvest and supplies 70 percent of all filberts shipped to foreign markets. Almost all Turkish filberts are shipped shelled.

FILBERTS, UNSHELLED 1/: Turkey, exports by country of destination  
1954-55, 1955-56, and 1956-57, seasons beginning  
Sept. 1

Country of destination	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Austria.....	7,498	2,721	3,448
Belgium.....	2,983	214	1,608
Czechoslovakia.....	3,977	1,949	1,564
East Germany.....	2,549	3,968	5,047
Finland.....	1,872	1,823	1,270
France.....	5,489	2,256	6,310
Netherlands.....	1,291	3,302	3,516
Hungary.....	1,497	1,880	1,736
Israel.....	3,002	926	1,698
Italy.....	6,089	1,803	3,586
Switzerland.....	8,182	2,258	4,718
United Kingdom.....	8,748	6,010	14,148
United States.....	1,552	461	2,696
West Germany.....	39,917	28,503	22,166
Yugoslavia.....	1,166	368	1,576
Other countries.....	6,738	1,960	2,635
Total.....	102,530	60,402	89,662

1/ Shelled exports converted to in-shell basis

## WEST GERMANY REDUCES FRUIT TARIFF RATES

On September 19, 1957, the Federal Republic of Germany announced approval of temporary reductions or exemptions in the import tariff rates for certain fresh fruits. These temporary changes were effective September 1, 1957, and will expire on December 31, 1957. Imports of fresh citrus fruits, grapes, apples, and pears are affected by these changes.

## SWEDEN LIFTS IMPORT EMBARGO ON APPLES AND PEARS

The Swedish government has announced that the seasonal import embargo will be lifted for pears on October 12 and for apples December 9. Import requirements are reported to be relatively large.

## U. S. VEGETABLE FIBER IMPORTS: 1909-10 to 1956

Vegetable fibers (except cotton) imported into the United States in 1956 totaled 267 thousand long tons valued at \$35 million dollars. This is a little less than the average from 1909-10 through 1955 of about 269 thousand tons valued at \$37 million dollars annually.

These fibers may be grouped into Hard, Soft, Palm-type, and Miscellaneous groups, of which the hard fibers rank first in importance (see table). Imports of the principal hard fibers totaled 174 thousand tons in 1956, while soft fiber imports ranked second with 81 thousand tons.

Sisal, henequen, and abaca--all cordage fibers--are most important of the hard fibers imported into the United States. Jute--a textile fiber used for bags and coverings for agricultural crops--ranks first among the soft fibers in quantity consumed. Kapok--a floss fiber used for stuffing upholstery and marine padding--is most important of the other fibers.

The United States depends upon imports for all of its supply of hard fibers and nearly all of its supply of the other fibers included in this study. The United States has no commercial production of any of them except flax, ramie, and hemp; and this production normally has been small compared with consumption. Exports have been negligible.

Domestic production of flax and hemp fiber was encouraged during periods of war that involved the United States, but the industry lagged between such periods. Current output is negligible. Ramie production has been increased to commercial quantities in recent years, and trade sources report that fair quantities of the fiber are exported.



Fiber	5-year averages 1/					1956				
	1909 to 1913-14	1925-29	1935-39	1941-45	1946-50	1951-55	1956	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
Hard fibers:	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons				
Sisal and henequen	140,315	128,746	122,799	167,277	124,805	159,139		131,672		
Abaca	71,922	60,565	39,946	27,417	54,079	53,902		38,346		
Istle, not dressed	9,243	13,735	8,347	15,640	9,446	4,946		817		
Istle, dressed	1,866	2/	2/	1,760	3,241	2,832		2,949		
Managuey, or cantala	2/	602	1,755	1,387	631	132		115		
Phormium	5,079	4,258	48	0	1	15		2/		
Soft fibers:										
Jute	93,163	80,719	68,853	66,844	66,398	70,111		75,346		
Sunn	84	1,046	743	4,704	764	1,596		1,779		
Flax	10,752	5,554	4,794	4,059	3,833	3,604		3,546		
Ramie	2/	3/	35	99	82	23		47		
Hemp	6,639	2,056	744	762	109	491		146		
Palm-type fibers:										
Coir fiber	261	249	1,809	909	1,994	2,234		819		
Coir yarn	3,459	1,041	1,854	3,187	2,836	2,898		3,155		
Crin vegetal	204	7,074	5,485	1,537	2,249	942		610		
Raffia	2/	2/	440	370	444	226		303		
Other palm-type fibers	2/	2/	1,353	3,013	3,607	2,993		3,567		
Miscellaneous fibers:										
Kapok	2,210	8,272	10,885	4,555	1,942	2,990		3,778		
Broomroot fiber	215	78	19	206	81	18		6		
Rice straw and rice fiber:	2/	2/	331	9	3/	0		0		
Other unmanufactured vegetable fibers (except cotton)	9,196	6,181	1,535	4,553	2,305	1,383		336		

1/ Years beginning July 1, 1909-10 to 1913-14; calendar years beginning 1925.

2/ Not separately classified.

3/ Less than 0.5 long ton.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States, and publications and official records of the Bureau of the Census.

# ARGENTINE DRIED PEACH PACK DECLINES SHARPLY

Frosts at critical times during the growing season crippled Argentine peach production in 1956-57, and the dried peach pack consequently declined from nearly 3,900 short tons in 1955-56 to less than 400 tons in 1956-57. Total production of Argentine dried fruit that has been reported (apples, apricots, peaches, and pears) during 1956-57 dropped to about a fifth of the previous season's output of 5,100 tons.

## MOROCCAN ALMOND CROP CONSIDERED AVERAGE

The 1957 Moroccan crop of sweet almonds, unofficially estimated at 3,300 short tons, shelled basis, closely approximates average production of 3,400 tons for 1950-54. The trade estimates that over 75 percent of the crop, or about 2,600 tons, will move in export channels, principally to France and West Germany.

During the period August 1, 1956-June 30, 1957, France took 55 percent of export shipments, and Germany 40 percent. At 1,600 short tons, the 1956 Moroccan sweet almond crop was unusually small because of late frosts and cold winds during the early spring.

Morocco's 1957 bitter almond crop is unofficially estimated as 1,100 tons. Substantially all of the crop will be shipped abroad.

ALMONDS, SHELLED: Morocco, supply and distribution sweet and bitter almonds, estimated 1956-57 and forecast 1957-58

Item	1956-57		1957-58 forecast	
	Sweet almonds	Bitter almonds	Sweet almonds	Bitter almonds
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Beginning stocks.....	0	0	0	0
Production.....	1,600	600	3,300	1,100
Total supply.....	1,600	600	3,300	1,100
Exports.....	1,100	600	2,600	1,100
Other disappearance.....	500	0	700	0
End stocks.....	0	0	0	0
Total distribution..	1,600	600	3,300	1,100

## U.S. RICE EXPORTS BELOW YEAR AGO

Rice exports from the United States in August were 379,000 bags (100 pounds) in terms of milled. This was a marked decline from the 2,786,000 bags exported in the same month of 1956. Cuba, Pakistan, and Liberia took 64, 15, and 6 percent, respectively, of the total exports.

RICE: United States exports by country of destination, August 1956 and 1957

Country of destination	August					
	1957 1/					
	1956	In terms		Over 25%		
	(total)	Rough	of milled	whole	Total	
			2/	kernels:		
Western Hemisphere:	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	
Canada .....	19,355:	0 :	0 :	17,633:	17,633	
Mexico .....	0:	95 :	62 :	0:	62	
Guatemala .....	0:	0 :	0 :	7,000:	7,000	
Canal Zone .....	11,248:	0 :	0 :	2,816:	2,816	
Bermuda .....	130:	0 :	0 :	493:	493	
Bahamas .....	7,740:	0 :	0 :	166:	166	
Cuba .....	192,442:	2,459 :	1,598 :	239,434:	241,032	
Jamaica .....	250:	0 :	0 :	105:	105	
Trinidad .....	24,579:	0 :	0 :	0:	0	
Netherlands Antilles .....	2,822:	0 :	0 :	3,352:	3,352	
Surinam .....	15,300:	0 :	0 :	0:	0	
Chile .....	0:	0 :	0 :	22:	22	
Other .....	8,388:	0 :	0 :	0:	0	
Total .....	282,254:	2,554 :	1,660 :	271,021:	272,681	
Europe:						
Belgium-Luxembourg .....	143,245:	0 :	0 :	2,664:	2,664	
Greece .....	0:	0 :	0 :	950:	950	
Other .....	585:	0 :	0 :	0:	0	
Total .....	143,830:	0 :	0 :	3,614:	3,614	
Asia:						
Lebanon .....	0:	0 :	0 :	108:	108	
Iran .....	0:	0 :	0 :	500:	500	
Kuwait .....	0:	0 :	0 :	7,700:	7,700	
Saudi Arabia .....	3,744:	0 :	0 :	1,900:	1,900	
Bahrein .....	400:	0 :	0 :	729:	729	
Indonesia .....	897,698:	0 :	0 :	0:	0	
Pakistan .....	1,125,077:	0 :	0 :	55,995:	55,995	
Japan .....	82,995:	0 :	0 :	350:	350	
Turkey .....	218,049:	0 :	0 :	0:	0	
Other .....	780:	0 :	0 :	0:	0	
Total .....	2,328,743:	0 :	0 :	67,282:	67,282	
Africa:						
Ghana .....	0:	0 :	0 :	500:	500	
Liberia .....	25,965:	0 :	0 :	23,584:	23,584	
Belgian Congo .....	0:	0 :	0 :	30:	30	
Union of South Africa .....	0:	120 :	78 :	500:	578	
Total .....	25,965:	120 :	78 :	24,614:	24,692	
Trust territory of the Pacific:	4,460:	0 :	0 :	9,240:	9,240	
Destination not specified .....	715:	0 :	0 :	1,333:	1,333	
Total world .....	2,785,967:	2,674 :	1,738 :	377,104:	378,842	

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Rough rice converted at 65 percent.

Source: Bureau of the Census

## GREEK CURRANT CROP UP, RAISIN CROP DOWN

The 1957 Greek currant crop is forecast at 80,000 short tons, a 21,000-ton decrease from last year's large crop but only 6,000 tons below average. Quality is said to be rather poor as a result of unfavorable weather conditions during the growing and drying stages.

Carry-over from the 1956 currant crop is estimated at 22,000 tons, most of which will probably be turned over to the alcohol distillation industry. Exports in 1957-58 are not expected to exceed 65,000 tons. In 1956-57, exports totaled 67,100 tons, of which 46,400 tons went to the United Kingdom.

The 1957 Greek raisin crop, which consists mainly of sultanas, is forecast at 53,000 short tons--slightly higher than the 1956 pack of 51,000 tons, and well above average production (1950-54) of 41,700 tons. With new vines coming into production as a result of expanded raisin vineyard acreage, a still larger crop was expected. However, the extremely hot, dry summer not only reduced the size of the berries but also caused discoloration of the raisins. Early September rains further reduced the pack. The harvest was also 10 to 15 days late. The major growing area is Crete.

Exports of raisins in 1957-58 are expected to be only as large as in 1956-57, with a higher percentage of discards because of poor quality. Exports in 1956-57 approximated 46,000 short tons. West Germany was, as usual, the largest market, taking 19,200 tons. The U.S.S.R. was the next most important customer, purchasing 6,700 tons.

## CYPRUS MARKETS RAISINS IN U.S.S.R.

The Cyprus Government sponsored a 3-way agreement with the U.S.S.R. and Czechoslovakia in 1956 which has moved a substantial volume of Cyprus raisins. Under the agreement, the Soviet Union received raisins while Cyprus obtained glassware and other manufactured articles from Czechoslovakia.

The Soviet Union absorbed \$114,800 worth of Cyprus' raisins during 1956, or 37 percent of all Cyprus' raisin exports, valued at \$307,798. During the first 7 months of 1957, raisins valued at \$585,037, or a volume of nearly 11 million pounds, have been indirectly traded to the Soviet Union under this agreement. At the current rate of purchasing the Soviet Union is taking 83 percent of all raisins exported from Cyprus. Government sources report that all of the 1956 raisin crop surplus has already been marketed though some of the 1955 production has yet to be traded.

Raisins are virtually the only item of trade between Cyprus and the Soviet Union.



## YUGOSLAV PRUNE ESTIMATE RAISED

Reports from Yugoslavia indicate that 1957 dried prune production is now unofficially estimated at 10,000 short tons, in comparison with earlier estimates of 8,000 tons. At 10,000 tons, the 1957 harvest would be less than 60 percent of the average of 17,600 tons (1950-54). On the other hand, it would be a considerable improvement over last year's extremely short crop of 1,500 tons.

Should the present estimate materialize, Yugoslavia would have about 8,000 tons of dried prunes available for export in the 1957-58 season, a considerable increase over the negligible quantity exported in 1956-57.

Approximately half of the exports may move into Western Europe, with the largest quantity probably going to West Germany. Possible one-third may go to the Soviet bloc, and the remainder outside of Europe.

The quantity of the 1957 crop is said to be excellent, with about 20 percent in the 70/75 and 50 percent in the 80/85 (per  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilogram--1.1 pounds) size classes. The remainder consists of smaller sizes.

Packing for export is expected to begin about October 15. Although prices have not been announced they are expected to range from \$235 to \$255 for the 70/75's and from \$215 to \$235 for the 80/85's, f.o.b. Yugoslav border.

CANADA'S DAIRY PRODUCT  
EXPORTS DECLINE

During the first half of 1957, Canada's exports of dairy products dropped below comparable 1956. The greatest reduction was in butter exports, which declined from 2.0 million pounds last year to 3,400 pounds this year. East Germany, an important market last year, taking almost the entire export, was not a purchaser in the January-June period, 1957.

Dry whole milk exports dropped from 6.5 million pounds to 4.5 million pounds. Shipments of nonfat dry milk showed an even greater decrease, from 2.6 million pounds to 417,000 pounds. Most of this change occurred in exports to India, which amounted to only 16,000 pounds this year, compared with 1.1 million pounds a year ago.

Cheese shipments at 1.8 million pounds were 2.3 million pounds under shipments last year.

Trade in canned milk was 3.3 million pounds, compared with 3.9 million pounds.

Casein exports (all to the United States) dropped from 1.2 million pounds last year to 257,000 pounds this year.



#### DUTCH FIRM MANUFACTURING POWDERED CHEESE

A firm in the Netherlands is manufacturing a cheese powder from Edam and Gouda cheeses for use in households and bakeries. Available in various sized packages, this powder is reported to keep for 12 months.

#### IRISH BUTTER EXPORTS INCREASE SHARPLY

Ireland's exports of butter soared to almost 15.4 million pounds during the first half of 1957, compared with 512,000 pounds during the same period in 1956. The United Kingdom was a market for over 94 percent of the 1957 exports. West Germany (which did not import any Irish butter in 1956) took 583,000 pounds, and the British West Indies and Malta served as markets for the remainder.

Government loss on recent sales is reportedly 17.5 cents per pound. If butter exports continue at the accelerated rate, the fund provided by the Ministry of Finance to pay for anticipated losses on export butter sales in the 1957-58 budget will soon be exhausted.

In spite of increased butter exports, Ireland is still troubled by surplus stocks due to increased production. Butter stocks on June 30, 1957, totaled 21.2 million pounds, 33 percent over the same date a year earlier. Production during the first 6 months of 1957 totaled 45.0 million pounds--20 percent over the first half of 1956.

Continued development of the West German market may offer some solution to Ireland's butter surplus problem. The Butter Marketing Committee, the government agency which exports Ireland's creamery butter, has recently received an order from West Germany for 336,000 pounds of unsalted butter. Since practically all the butter produced in Ireland is salted, this order necessitates special production arrangements. The price obtainable, however, is reportedly higher than top quotations for Irish butter on the British market.

#### CHILE ISSUES TWO NEW DAIRY IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

Chilean Decree No. 6317, published August 24, 1957, lists fresh and condensed milk among permitted agricultural commodity imports. This is a modification of Decree No. 859, which established the previous allowable import list. To import the included commodities, the importer must obtain a Requirement Certificate from the Ministry of Economy or an authority designated by this Ministry. Such certificates will reportedly be issued mainly for the northern provinces of Tarapaca and Antofagasta.

The Government of Chile also announced deposit requirements for a new list of agricultural commodities; two dairy products are included. Chilean importers must deposit with the government 100 percent of the f.o.b. value of butter and dried milk as a guarantee of duty payment.

**WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES: Wholesale prices at specified markets,  
with comparisons  
(U. S. cents per pound)**

Country, market, and description	Butter				Cheese			
	Quotations				Quotations			
	1957	Cur-	Month	Year	1957	Cur-	Month	Year
		rent:	earlier:	earlier:		rent:	earlier:	earlier:
<u>United Kingdom (London)</u>								
New Zealand, finest-----	Aug.29:	38.7:	38.7	39.2				
Australian choicest-----	Aug.29:	38.6:	38.6	38.7				
New Zealand, finest								
white-----					Aug. 29	22.6:	23.9	36.0
Australian choicest								
white-----					Aug.29:	20.2:	21.2	34.5
<u>Australia (Sydney)</u>								
Choicest butter-----	Aug.29:	46.7:	46.7	46.7				
Choicest cheddar-----					Aug.29:	28.2:	28.2	28.2
<u>Irish Republic (Dublin)</u>								
Creamery butter-----	Aug.29:	54.8:	54.8	43.9				
Cheese-----					Aug.29:	30.8:	30.8	30.8
<u>Denmark (Copenhagen)</u> -----	Aug.28:	36.1:	33.0	39.3				
<u>France (Paris)</u>								
Charentes creamery-----	Sept.2 :	84.3:	72.7	90.7				
<u>Germany (Kempten)</u>								
Markenbutter-----	Aug.28:	68.0:	68.1	65.9				
<u>United States</u>								
92-score creamery (N.Y.):	Sept.5 :	61.7:	60.2	60.8				
Cheddar (Wisconsin)-----					Sept.5 :	36.0:	35.1	35.7
<u>Netherlands (Leeuwarden)</u>								
Creamery butter-----	Aug.31:	49.4:	49.5	49.5				
Full cream Gouda-----					Aug.23:	23.9:	24.3	25.6
Edam, 40 percent-----					Aug.23:	21.7:	22.4	23.7
<u>Belgium (Hasselt)</u> -----	Aug.29:	78.3:	74.8	73.9				
<u>Canada (Montreal)</u>								
1st grade creamery-----	Aug.24:	64.0:	62.5	58.1				
Ontario white-----					Aug.24:	35.7:	35.7	33.8

Source: Intelligence Bulletin, the Commonwealth Economic Committee; and the Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

## IRISH CATTLE EXPORTS UP

Irish cattle exports rose 51 percent during the first 6 months of 1957 over exports for the same period in 1956, as feeder cattle exports to the United Kingdom increased from 230,579 head during the first half of 1956 to 415,579 head during the first half of 1957.

The demand for feeder cattle has risen sharply in the United Kingdom as a result of the subsidy paid on fat cattle feed for 3 months in the United Kingdom. This subsidy has at the same time made it less profitable to market Irish feed slaughter stock in the United Kingdom, with a consequent reduction in Irish exports of fat cattle to the United Kingdom. The majority of Irish fat cattle exports are now going to continental Europe.

## LIVESTOCK: Irish exports, January-June, 1955-1957

Year	Cattle			Sheep	Hogs
	Feeder	Other	Total		
	- - - - - <u>-1,000 head-</u> - - - - -				
1955.....	276	70	346	49	0.1
1956.....	230	87	317	67	0.3
1957.....	415	63	478	70	0.2

It has been reported that an unusual result of the United Kingdom subsidy on domestically fattened cattle has been the development of a cross-border trade in which Irish feeder cattle are fed in Northern Ireland and are then shipped back to Ireland for slaughter. Once the animals have been on feed in Northern Ireland for 3 months, they are eligible for the U.K. fat-stock subsidy. The feeder receives the sale price plus the subsidy, and then the animals are reexported to Ireland for slaughter, usually at a price from \$10 to \$25 less per head than that for which they were originally bought. The subsidy received by the feeder covers the loss incurred. An increase of Irish imports of cattle from Northern Ireland from 474 head in the first half of 1956 to 20,376 head during the same period in 1957 indicates the growth of this trade.

Due to increased exports, total cattle numbers in Ireland dropped from 4,536,600 head in June 1956 to 4,429,800 head in June 1957, a decrease of 2 percent. Irish breeders are making strenuous efforts to meet the demand for feeder stock. The number of breeding cows and heifers rose 4 percent, and the number of calves 6 percent, during the year ending June.

Exports of beef and veal rose 52 percent during the period January-June 1957 over the same period in 1956. The increases were in exports of chilled beef to West Germany and of frozen beef to the French Army in Algeria. Exports to the U.K. dropped substantially.

WEST GERMAN CATTLE AND  
HOG SLAUGHTER RISE

West German cattle slaughter during the 1956-57 fiscal year rose 3 percent over 1955-56, largely because greater numbers of young stock were fed for market. Ample stocks of feed and strong demand for beef have encouraged West Germany's cattle feeding industry to expand. The rise in slaughter also reflects the recovery of cattle numbers from the low of June 1955 which resulted from heavy slaughter in 1954-55. A 2 percent increase in cattle numbers from June 1955 to June 1956 was accompanied by lowered slaughter during fiscal 1955-56.

West German hog slaughter has continued its steady rise. Due to present oversupplies in the market, some farmers are planning to reduce production during calendar 1958, and a leveling-off of hog slaughter is expected. However, the large numbers of pigs already farrowed or due to farrow in the next few months indicate that slaughter for 1957-58 will be about 8 percent above 1956-57 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, September 9, 1957).

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER: West Germany, fiscal years  
1953-54 to 1956-57

Year	Cattle & calves	Hogs	Sheep	Goats	Horses
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1953-54.....	5,427	14,456	805	90	129
1954-55.....	5,496	15,953	692	90	110
1955-56.....	5,188	17,774	587	86	90
1956-57.....	5,325	18,055	540	80	85

Source: Statistische Berichte.

Largely as a result of the large increase in hog slaughter, U. S. exports of lard to West Germany dropped from 33 million pounds during the first 7 months of 1956 to 10 million pounds during the same period in 1957. A supplementary factor in this sharp drop was reduced lard production in the United States during 1957.

Fortunately for U. S. producers, exports of variety meats (mostly frozen pork livers) to West Germany, which dipped alarmingly during April-May 1957, have recovered to their previous high levels. Increasing domestic consumption in West Germany and the elimination of West German barriers to imports of U. S. variety meats are factors in this recovery (see Foreign Crops, and Markets, July 8, 1957).



# DENMARK PRODUCING AND EXPORTING MORE MEAT

Meat production in Denmark was 7 percent higher during the first half of 1957 than in the same period of 1956, with a larger output of all principal types of meat. The increase in beef and veal production is in response to relatively favorable beef prices in recent years. In addition, low butter prices during the first half of 1957 have led farmers to cull their dairy herds and sell undesirable animals for beef.

Although hog prices have dropped during 1957, large crops and low prices of roots and potatoes in 1956 have reduced the cost of pork production and enabled farmers to continue to make a profit on hogs.

MEAT: Danish production and exports, January-June 1956-57

Year	Beef & veal	Pork	Horse	Mutton, lamb & goat	Total
- - - - Million pounds - - - -					
Production:					
1956.....	284.0	527.0	11.5	0.6	823.7
1957.....	307.8	565.0	9.9	0.7	883.4
Exports: 1/					
1956.....	51.1	242.7	-	-	293.8
1957.....	101.14	266.9	2.4	-	370.7

1/ Product weight. Excludes canned and variety meats.

Source: Danish Statistical Department.

Exports rose 26 percent for the first 6 months of 1957 compared with the same period last year. Overall earnings were 17 percent more, as the larger exports overcame reduction in prices. Exports to the Soviet Union, Sweden, France, and Italy rose sharply, although the United Kingdom continued to be Denmark's most important meat export market.

Wide fluctuations in pork prices on the United Kingdom market have caused considerable concern in Denmark. The general belief in Denmark is that the United Kingdom is now oversupplied with pork. However, due to low production costs and fear of losing their share of the market, Danish farmers are unwilling to limit hog production at present.

## CANADIAN HOG NUMBERS INCREASE

Estimated hog numbers in Canada on September 1, published for the first time this year, were 5,293,000, up 10 percent from 4,800,000 in 1956. This rise reflects a shortage of pork in Canada during 1957 and consequent high prices for hogs.



With abundant supplies of feed grain on hand, Canadian farmers have been increasing their planned production rapidly. Farrowings from September to November 1957 are expected to total 264,000, 36 percent over the same period in 1956, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics (see Foreign Crops and Markets, August 26, 1957).

#### BRAZIL INCREASES BEEF EXPORTS

Exports of chilled and frozen beef from Brazil have risen sharply during 1957. During the first 6 months of 1957, they were over 22 million pounds, exceeding exports for the whole year of 1956 which totaled less than 19 million. Brazil, however, is still a relatively small exporter of beef, despite efforts to regain the position it held during the pre-war period when it annually exported about 100 million pounds of fresh and frozen beef.

Brazil's beef production has not kept pace with consumer demand in recent years, due to animal disease, the slow maturing of Brazilian cattle, long distances and poor transportation between producing and consuming areas, and undeveloped marketing and slaughtering facilities. Thus, while Brazil has more cattle than people, it has had a shortage of beef for export.

#### BELGIUM INCREASES DOMESTIC WHEAT INCORPORATION RATE

The rate at which Belgium's commercial flour millers are required to incorporate domestic wheat into their flour was increased from 60 to 75 percent on September 16, 1957. This is the highest domestic wheat milling rate which Belgium has ever established at the start of a wheat marketing season. On July 15, the rate was reduced from 65 to 60 percent with the understanding that it would not be further reduced when the new crop came on the market. (see Foreign Crops and Markets, August 12, 1957).

The official forecast of Belgium's 1957 wheat crop is an alltime record of 750,000 metric tons (27.6 million bushels). Unofficial estimates run as high as 850,000 tons (31.2 million bushels). Production in 1956 was only 599,000 tons (22 million bushels). The 1957 wheat area of 207,600 hectares (513,000 acres) represents an increase of 10.5 percent over the 1956 area of 187,800 hectares (464,000 acres).

The compulsory domestic wheat milling rate is one of several devices that the Belgian Government uses to ensure purchase of wheat from farmers at the directional price. Other devices are government buying of wheat and control of imports. Up to 1957, millers had to buy only part of their wheat requirements from the farmers at the directional price, but this year they are required to incorporate the entire current crop in their milling operations at that price. The price averages the same this year as last, 470 Belgian francs per 100 kilograms (\$2.54 per bushel). (see Foreign Crops and Markets, September 16, 1957.)

## AUSTRALIA'S GRAIN PROSPECTS DETERIORATE

Prospects for Australia's 1957 grain crop deteriorated further during September. Continued dry weather has reduced yield prospects so much that current forecasts indicate production may be even less than the small out-turn of 135 million bushels last year. The dry weather is not only reducing yield prospects but is causing some diversion of wheat acreage to grazing. As the dry weather has affected grazing and reserves of hay are largely depleted, an increased demand for grain for stockfeed is expected.

With carryover at the end of the current season expected to be down to less than 40 million bushels, Australia's supply of wheat available for export will be sharply below that of recent years. Early this month the Wheat Board was reported to have suspended flour exports from New South Wales because of the probable wheat shortage.

CANADA'S SECOND ESTIMATE  
CONFIRMS REDUCED GRAIN CROP

Recent estimates confirm earlier exports of reduced grain yields in Canada. On the basis of yields indicated on September 15, the wheat harvest will be about 200 million bushels less than in 1956, oats about 135 million bushels less, and barley about 45 million bushels smaller. Production of mixed grains, which are grown mainly in the east, is down only slightly from 1956, with yields above 1956 yields but acreage smaller.

Favorable growing conditions in Ontario account for the high yields reported for mixed grains. About 68 percent of Canada's 1957 total mixed grains were produced in Ontario. The good growing season there also accounted for high yields of corn. The good growing season there also accounted for high yields of corn. Ontario produces virtually all of Canada's corn grown for grain.

The smaller wheat harvest is attributed to a 30-percent reduction in yields and an 8-percent cut in acreage. The average yield of 17.6 bushels per acre, besides being sharply below the 1956 yield, is 9 percent below the average of the past 10 years. The largest drop in yields was in Saskatchewan, where current yields average 15.8 bushels per acre, compared with 24.4 bushels a year ago.

Estimates for spring wheat include durum, which is estimated at 43.7 million bushels this year. For the second consecutive year durum acreage increased sharply in the Prairie Provinces, and it is now 2,374,000 acres. Of that total, 1,793,000 acres are in Saskatchewan. Yields for the Prairie Provinces as a whole averaged only 18.4 bushels per acre, compared with 26.0 bushels in 1956.

Production of oats, as forecast at 388 million bushels, is 26 percent below the large 1956 harvest. Yields for the country averaged about 20 percent below 1956 yields as a result of the severe summer drought in the Prairie Provinces. Low yields in the west were only partly offset by record yields in Ontario and Quebec.

Barley production is estimated at 223 million bushels, 17 percent below the 1956 harvest. Yields are indicated at 23.8 bushels per acre, compared with 32.1 bushels last year. Rye production of 8.6 million bushels is about the same as in 1956. An increase in fall rye offset a reduction in spring rye.

## GRAIN: Canadian production, 1956 and 1957

Grain	Acreage		Yield per acre		Production	
	1956	1957	1956	1957	1956	1957
	1,000	1,000			1,000	1,000
	acres	acres	Bu.	Bu.	bushels	bushels
Winter wheat.....	625	590	32.0	33.3	20,000	19,647
Spring wheat.....	22,156	20,441	25.0	17.1	553,060	350,049
Total.....	22,781	21,031	25.2	17.6	573,000	369,696
Oats for grain 1/.	11,707	11,017	44.8	35.2	524,445	388,311
Barley.....	8,390	9,403	32.1	23.8	269,065	223,358
Fall rye.....	368	440	15.8	16.8	5,834	7,376
Spring rye.....	179	111	15.4	11.0	2,750	1,220
Total.....	547	551	15.7	15.6	8,584	8,596
Mixed grain.....	1,560	1,452	42.7	44.3	66,608	64,333
Corn for grain....	509	514	54.6	57.3	27,814	29,462
Buckwheat.....	168	107	18.9	19.9	3,177	2,137

1/ Production and yield in bushels of 34 pounds.

Source: Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

DROUGHT HITS AGRICULTURE IN  
NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA

Most of the Nicaraguan farm belt has been hard hit by drought. Corn, beans, rice, and cotton have suffered seriously. These and other crops will be greatly reduced. Pastures are adequately sustaining livestock, however. It is estimated that the 1957-58 cotton harvest will be about 25 percent less than that last year. Below-normal yields of rice are predicted, while much of the first corn crop has been harvested as fodder. About 80 percent of normal annual bean production fortunately is derived from the yet-to-be-planted second crop.

The area most affected in Costa Rica is the Province of Guanacaste, although the Central Plateau and other regions have been affected to a lesser degree by the drought. It is believed that Costa Rica will have to import corn and rice to meet its requirements. No losses in the cotton crop have been reported, but harvesting will be delayed about one month.

# VENEZUELA INCREASES ESTIMATE OF SESAME SEED PRODUCTION

Sesame seed production in Venezuela for the 1957-58 crop year is now officially estimated at 25,000 metric tons, 14,000 tons short of estimated 1958 requirements. The 14,000-ton deficit will, under such circumstances, have to be offset by imports.

The 25,000-ton production figure for this crop year is, however, over twice the 12,000 tons produced in 1956-57 and one-fourth more than the previous estimate for 1957-58 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, August 19, 1957). Production and requirement figures may be inflated, but they do provide a basis for estimating probable imports.

# MEXICAN 1957 HENEQUEN PRODUCTION ESTIMATED LOWER; EXPORTS HIGHER

Mexico's production of henequen fiber in 1957 is expected to be no more than 234 million pounds, or about 4 million less than in 1956, although acreage remains at 370,000 to 371,000 acres. Nevertheless, fiber carryover at the beginning of 1957 was reported to be 20 million pounds more than the carryover into 1956. The larger carryover plus expected production would make a total available supply of 306 million pounds of henequen this year, compared with 291 million in 1956.

HENEQUEN: Mexico, supply and distribution, 1956 and estimated 1957

Supply and distribution	1956	Estimated 1957
	Million pounds	Million pounds
Carryover, January 1.....	52.9	72.8
Imports.....	0	0
Production.....	238.1	233.7
Total supply.....	291.0	306.5
Exports (all classes of unmd. fiber).....	20.0	37.5
Consumption.....	198.2	194.0
Stocks, December 31.....	72.8	75.0
Total distribution.....	291.0	306.5

Exports of henequen fiber from Mexico will probably total over 37 million pounds in 1957. Exports in 1956 were only 20 million pounds. Raw fiber was freed from export restrictions in August 1956. Exports of binder and baler twine increased sharply in the first half of 1957 compared with the last half of 1956, but were less than in the corresponding half of 1956.



HENEQUEN: Mexico, exports of fiber and products, January-June  
1956 and 1957

Commodity exported	January-June			
	1956		1957	
	To U.S.:	Total	To U.S.:	Total
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Henequen fiber, not specified.....	216	269	14,046	14,125
Henequen and other hard fibers,				
regenerated (picked and combed)....	78	78	287	287
Henequen fibers, stained.....	37	37	0	0
Henequen bagasses.....	2,494	2,494	2,239	2,277
Mill waste of henequen and other				
hard fibers.....	707	1,935	701	2,317
Binder twine, weighing up to 5 grams				
per meter.....	14,346	14,424	10,331	10,406
Binder twine, weighing more than				
5 grams per meter.....	50,285	51,244	41,989	43,033
Henequen yarn, cordage, and rope.....	16,329	16,949	16,417	17,878
Henequen felt and textiles,				
not specific.....	2,182	2,289	842	852
Henequen felt manufactures .....	730	730	1,815	1,815
Henequen sacks and bags.....	0	0	15	15
Henequen manufactures, not specified.:	3	3	2	2

Compiled from data of Direccion General de Estadistica, Mexico.

Mill consumption of henequen fiber in Yucatan, the principal producing area, has increased in each of the last 3 quarters. It increased from 24 million pounds in July-September 1956 to 54 million in April-June 1957. Receipts of raw fiber at the mills decreased in the 2 quarters, October 1956-March 1957, but were at 51.7 million pounds in the third quarter of 1956 and again in the second quarter of 1957.

A new contract, now under negotiation with henequen producers, is expected to result in about a 5-percent decrease in the price paid to growers for henequen fiber.

Many of the most important henequen planters have obtained injunctions to prevent authorities from carrying out the decree that returned control of the henequen industry to the State government. They allege the decree to be unconstitutional. The decree has not been revoked, but neither has the State government taken any action to enforce it.



## JAPAN ARRANGES LOANS FOR PURCHASE OF U. S. COTTON

The Export-Import Bank of Washington has signed a \$60-million loan agreement with the Bank of Japan to finance purchases of cotton in the United States during the crop year beginning August 1, 1957. The loan was authorized in June, but was not made effective until details were worked out and proper signatures affixed on September 27, 1957.

This \$60-million loan is in addition to the credit of \$115-million established in June 1957, also in favor of the Bank of Japan, to finance purchases of several United States agricultural commodities, including cotton, wheat, barley, and soybeans. It is anticipated that the line of credit made available under the agreement signed September 27 will be used subsequently to the \$115-million commodity loan.

Under the two credits, approximately \$110-million will be used by Japan to finance the importation of United States cotton. Purchases and shipments of cotton thus financed are to be made through regular commercial channels.

## U. S. COTTON EXPORTS DOWN IN AUGUST

United States exports of cotton (all types) in August 1957 were 351,000 bales (500 pounds gross), down about 20 percent from exports of 440,000 bales in August 1956, and also from the 438,000 bales exported in July 1957. The decline was attributed to an apparent slow-down following the heavy movement of 1956-57. All cotton purchased under the 1956-57 export program had to be exported before August 15, 1957. None of the cotton purchased under the 1957-58 program could be exported until after August 15.

Most of the decline was in exports to France, Canada, India, Korea, and Japan; it was partially offset by increased quantities to West Germany, and Belgium. The decline in exports to Europe during August was less marked than that to other areas, amounting to only 9 percent compared with the overall decline of 20 percent.

Cotton sales under the 1957-58 export program, for export between August 16, 1957, and July 31, 1958, were 3,688,649 running bales, as of October 1, 1957. The price of Middling 1-inch at average location was 27.32 cents per pound, up slightly from the September 17 price of 27.24 cents. Prices had previously trended downward from the March 19 average location price of 27.47 cents, to a low of 27.23 cents on September 13.

COTTON: United States exports by country of destination, averages  
1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1955 and 1956, August 1956 and 1957

Country of destination	(Bales of 500 pounds gross)					
	Year beginning August 1				August	
	Average		1955	1956	1956 : 1957	
	1935-39	1945-49			1956	1957
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Austria.....	0	1/ 36	18	54	3	5
Belgium.....	169	131	30	337	18	25
Denmark.....	33	14	3	25	1	2
Finland.....	35	21	16	33	4	1
France.....	662	575	178	432	39	4
Germany, West.....	511	340	74	1,061	46	66
Italy.....	442	489	105	720	47	32
Netherlands.....	107	131	17	260	22	11
Norway.....	17	7	(2/)	21	1	1
Portugal.....	36	(2/)	5	91	4	3
Spain.....	108	69	143	174	0	0
Sweden.....	115	12	10	111	2	6
Switzerland.....	11	26	14	121	6	9
United Kingdom.....	1,346	488	153	1,049	64	59
Yugoslavia.....	17	47	109	141	1	0
Other Europe.....	3/ 276	4/ 159	6	66	2	13
Total Europe.....	3,885	2,545	881	4,696	260	237
Canada.....	301	275	75	380	28	7
Cuba.....	11	16	11	31	3	4
Israel.....	(5/)	5	15	19	0	0
Hong Kong.....	(5/)	35	45	95	3	4
India.....	52	86	9	301	21	3
Indonesia.....	(5/)	5	15	43	3	2
Korea, Rep. of.....	(5/)	6/ 48	135	220	17	1
Japan.....	1,142	585	873	1,588	87	71
Philippines, Rep. of..	2	4	12	36	4	3
Taiwan (Formosa).....	(5/)	1	124	161	0	(2/)
Bolivia.....	4	2	13	11	0	0
Chile.....	9	20	14	74	0	4
Colombia.....	20	24	27	52	5	2
French N. Africa.....	(5/)	4	6	17	(2/)	0
Australia.....	9	7	28	81	6	5
Other countries.....	7/ 154	8/ 403	37	9/ 107	3	8
Total 500-lb. bales:	5,589	4,065	2,320	7,912	440	351

1/ 4-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes Czechoslovakia 65, and Poland 180. 4/ Includes Czechoslovakia 57, Greece 21, and Poland 69. 5/ If any, included in other countries. 6/ 3-year average. 7/ Includes China 117, and French Indochina 22. 8/ Includes China 401. 9/ Includes Pakistan 28, Union of South Africa 31, and Uruguay 15.

# U. S. EXPORTS OF AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN COTTON DECLINE

United States exports of American-Egyptian cotton in August 1957 were only 99 bales (500 pounds gross), down sharply from exports of 1,502 bales in August 1956, and from 1,893 bales in July 1957. Only 89 bales were exported to France, and none to other European countries. This was in sharp contrast to last year's August exports to several European countries and India.

COTTON: United States exports of American-Egyptian cotton by country of destination, annual 1954-56, August 1956 and 1957

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)					
Country of destination	Year beginning August 1			August	
	1954	1955	1956	1956	1957
Austria.....	0	0	1,322	141	0
Belgium.....	0	0	159	53	0
France.....	103	640	7,150	9	89
Germany, West.....	0	169	456	0	0
Ireland.....	0	0	210	0	0
Italy.....	0	233	5,749	743	0
Netherlands.....	0	0	34	23	0
Portugal.....	0	0	796	0	0
Spain.....	0	15,002	15,539	0	0
Sweden.....	0	3	211	0	0
Switzerland.....	0	272	1,325	104	0
Trieste.....	0	0	369	0	0
United Kingdom.....	93	96	21,894	205	0
Yugoslavia.....	0	1,315	398	0	0
Israel.....	240	(1/)	0	0	0
India.....	0	603	952	218	0
Japan.....	0	21	4,545	4	0
Pakistan.....	0	3,156	0	0	0
Colombia.....	0	0	51	0	0
Other countries.....	0	45	3	2	10
Total 500-lb. bales....	436	21,555	61,163	1,502	99

1/ Less than 1 bale.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

## WEST GERMAN OILCAKE AND MEAL PRODUCTION (CORRECTION)

The figures for production of rapeseed oilcake and meal in West Germany, as published in Foreign Crops and Markets, August 19, 1957, table on page 28, are actually for rapeseed production, not oilcake and meal. Also, the 1953 figure should have been 31,600 tons instead of 18,900. All figures in the table are in metric tons.

EGYPTIAN COTTON PAYMENTS MAY BE  
CLEARED IN GREEK ACCOUNTS

Private sources in Egypt have confirmed earlier reports of government authorization to sell Egyptian cotton for shipment to any destination with payment in Egyptian pounds through the Egyptian-Greek clearing account. Financing of cotton purchases in this way results in a price discount of about 13 percent -- considerably more than the 9.1 percent allowed under the regular premium discount system.

As Greece's credit balance in the account is not large (about LE3,500,000 = \$8,580,000), it is considered that the effects of this new policy will not be pronounced.

EGYPT'S 1957-58 COTTON CROP ESTIMATED  
HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR'S

Egypt's 1957-58 cotton production, according to the first official estimate released October 7, 1957, is expected to total 1,711,000 bales (500 pounds gross). This represents an increase of 15 percent over production of 1,492,000 bales in 1956-57, and is 11 percent higher than 1955-56 production of 1,535,000 bales. The final estimate of 1957-58 cotton acreage is 1,888,000 acres, 10 percent more than 1956-57 acreage of 1,715,000 acres, but close to the 1955-56 area of 1,885,000 acres.

Most of the increased production is in the extra long staple varieties, Karnak and Menoufi, expected to increase 29 percent over 1956-57. Production of Ashmouni and similar varieties is expected to be 12 percent over last year.

COTTON: Egypt, production by staple length and variety, final estimate 1956-57, and first estimate 1957-58

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Staple length and principal variety	1956-57	1957-58	Percent change
	1,000	1,000	
	<u>bales</u>	<u>bales</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Extra long staple, over 1-3/8":			
Karnak and Menoufi.....	611	786	+29
Medium long staple, over 1-1/4":			
Giza 30, 31 and 47.....	272	251	-8
Long staple, over 1-1/8":			
Ashmouni.....	574	645	+12
Subtotal.....	1,457	1,682	+15
Scarto (unclassified cotton).....	35	29	-17
Total.....	1,492	1,711	+15

Source: Government of Egypt.



## INDIA TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF DESI AND COMILLA COTTONS

India plans to increase production of the short staple, harsh cottons, Bengal Desi and Comilla, by about 35 percent within the next few years. Two pilot projects have recently been approved by the Indian Central Cotton Committee (ICCC) for increasing the acreage and production of these cottons in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan States. The program will be expanded to other states, and eventually cover about 300,000 acres. Production by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan (1961) is expected to increase by about 100,000 bales (500 pounds gross). Acreage of long and medium staple cottons will not be affected.

Present annual production of Bengal Desi and Comilla cottons is about 275,000 bales, of which about 85,000 bales are exported. Comilla is the only variety of Indian cotton which is not used in significant quantities in India, and practically all of it is exported. It is said to be one of the world's shortest and coarsest cottons. It ranges from 3/8 to 1/2 inch in staple, is extremely harsh, springy, and resilient, and can be mixed with wool in the manufacture of blankets and woolen fabrics. Exports are mostly to the United States and Japan, although this variety represents only a small percent of total exports. Prices are nearly as high as those for longer-staple Indian cottons. The relatively high price and rather constant demand are expected to encourage the increase in production as planned.

The export tax on Zoda cotton, Yellow Pickings, and Sweepings was abolished effective September 22, 1957. The tax on these varieties had been 50 rupees per bale of 392 pounds (2.66 U.S. cents per pound), or 30 percent ad valorem, whichever was lower.

## U.K. IMPORTS MORE COTTON IN 1956-57

Cotton imports into the United Kingdom during August-July 1956-57 were 1,773,000 bales (500 pounds gross), 20 percent higher than imports of 1,483,000 bales in 1955-56. Cotton was imported from more than 50 different areas in 1956-57, although sizable amounts were obtained from only about 20 major producing countries. There was a considerable shift in the sources of supply in 1956-57. Increased quantities were received from the United States, Turkey, Argentina, Nicaragua, and Paraguay; decreased quantities from Nigeria, Brazil, the Sudan, India, Pakistan, the U.S.S.R., Syria, and Mexico.

Quantities imported from principal sources in 1956-57, with comparable 1955-56 figures in parentheses, were: United States 1,086,000 bales (287,000); Sudan 153,000 (237,000); Peru 79,000 (88,000); Nigeria 53,000 (166,000); Turkey 52,000 (275); Mexico 43,000 (72,000); Brazil 34,000 (141,000); Nicaragua 32,000 (19,000); U.S.S.R. 29,000 (72,000); Uganda 28,000 (24,000); Iran 19,000 (24,000); Argentina 19,000 (400); Aden 18,000 (19,000); India 20,000 (72,000); Paraguay 17,000 (10,000); Pakistan 12,000 (55,000); and Syria 10,000 (37,000). Imports from Egypt were 47,000 bales in 1955-56, but only 278 bales in 1956-57.



Cotton consumption in the United Kingdom increased only slightly during August-June 1956-57, amounting to 1,462,000 bales, or 1 percent above the 1,444,000 bales consumed a year earlier. Consumption for the entire 1956-57 season is estimated at 1,560,000 bales, compared with 1,538,000 bales in 1955-56. Reexports during 1956-57 were reported at 28,000 bales.

Cotton stocks on August 1, 1957, are computed at 615,000 bales, up 42 percent from stocks of 433,000 bales held a year earlier.

Manufacturers of cotton and rayon textiles reportedly are well supplied with orders sufficient to keep the mills busy several months ahead. Some manufacturers are quoting later delivery dates because of shortages of workers. Production of cotton yarn in May 1957 averaged 13.15 million pounds per week, the highest rate in about 2 years. Output of cotton cloth also has shown a marked increase this season, averaging 33.70 million linear yards per week during May. Output of fabrics of man-made fibers and mixtures has declined this season.

TEXTILE PRODUCTION: United Kingdom, weekly averages of  
Lancaster textile industry, January-March 1956 and  
January-May 1957

Period	Yarns		Fabrics	
	Cotton	Spun rayon & mixtures	Cotton	Rayon 1/ & mixtures
	Million lbs. per week		Million linear yds. per week	
1956:				
January-March.....	12.25	2.81	32.29	14.59
1957:				
January-March.....	12.68	3.12	33.36	13.88
April.....	11.77	2.86	31.80	13.00
May.....	13.15	3.15	33.70	13.70

1/ Includes other man-made fibers.

Source: Cotton Board

The price of U. S. Middling 1-inch cotton, c.i.f. Liverpool, was 30.56 cents per pound on October 3, 1957, compared with 30.43 cents on September 5, and 30.72 cents on August 8. Spinner demand and import business for all growths remained quiet during September. The prospects of heavy October tenders from U. S. shippers' consignments hung fairly heavy over the market throughout the month. The dullness of demand was accentuated when the Bank of England, on September 19, announced an increase in the rediscount interest rate from 5 to 7 percent. As a result, mills now tend to carry only minimum stocks.

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